2020-2021 RI Pre-K RFP Questions and Answers

1. If we are proposing to transform a classroom from a split session to 1/2 day to a State Pre-K can we present a back-up plan to be sure our AM peers are not displaced since we cannot predict who will get into the lottery?

Yes, if you are proposing to transition a ½ day room into a full day classroom you will need to present a detailed plan that accounts for all children currently enrolled in the program to assure they have access to placement.

2. If we will be proposing a new to the program curriculum (ex. Creative curriculum) do we need to budget for that or is it provided?

Yes, the curriculum would be a component of the RI Pre-K budget proposal.

3. Do GOLD per student rates need to be budgeted?

No, TSG does not need to be part of your proposed budget. It is paid for by RIDE.

4. If contract restrictions prevent us from knowing who are educators will be, can we just submit the job descriptions and process for hiring?

Yes, if you have not yet identified the RI Pre-K staff then job descriptions and a detailed plan for hiring qualified staff must be presented.

5. If we had a LISC site visit last year do we need to do it again? Who do we contact to have a playground safety inspection?

No, if you have had a recent visit with LISC then you do not need to schedule another site visit unless there are specific facility concerns. However, if you are participating in TA with LISC to support your RI Pre-K proposal you should submit that information.

Playground inspections are not expected during the proposal cycle, they are a program deliverable for confirmed RI Pre-K programs.

6. Can the budget be submitted on an Excel spreadsheet as long as the spreadsheet includes the same line items and codes as the budget forms in the application?

No, the budgets must be completed on the RIDE templates provided. The templates have been uploaded to the RIDE website in word format.

7. Before/After School plan with transportation option: Does this mean the plan indicates the PK site provides the transportation to an offsite day care provider or that the PK site can recommend or has a relationship with a day care provider that provides transportation?

The expectation is that the RI Pre-K program has a relationship and process for supporting families who need wrap around school care. This can be as a site provider or with connections to community and family childcare programs who offer transportation.
8. If we get accepted to universal pre k one year and not the other- what happens to the teacher salary? Is the owner expected to pay summers off, vacation time, and hourly rate from the non-awarded year?

The RI Pre-K grants are awarded yearly in a three year cycle. As long as classrooms meet all benchmarks and are in compliance with RI Pre-K deliverables the award will continue. RI Pre-K teacher salary for the Pre-K year is included in the RI Pre-K grant. If for any reason the program is no longer funded through the grant the teacher’s salary would not be covered.

9. Are we required to pay the lead teacher 52k a year? If so, does this mean 56% of the awarded grant goes towards the lead teacher/teacher assistant/administrator salary? Do you have any guidance in regard to teacher and TA salaries?

Yes, approximately 56% of the budget proposed should go to the salaries of the RI Pre-K staff as we are looking for high quality early childhood educators. Salaries for RI Pre-K educational staff should reflect the experience and education of the staff and be comparable to a teacher at the same level within the public school.

10. Who can we speak to in regard to clarifying the estimated percentages for Pre-K budgetary allocations chart on page 23 of the RFP?

The estimated budget allocation is provided as those percentages have been determined to provide an appropriate budget for programs to deliver high quality RI Pre-K. For any budget area that falls outside of the estimated percentages, proposals need to provide a detailed explanation of how that request will lead to better student outcomes.

11. Is there a teacher contract you provide, or do we formulate it?

No, RIDE does not provide a teacher contract as most of the RI Pre-K teachers are employees of larger organizations and will need to abide by the obligations of said employer which may or may not be included in a teacher contract.

12. If a head teacher needs to take FMLA does the state fund that leave?

FMLA is a protected leave that ensures employees can return to their position, in the allotted timeframe, with no prejudice. FMLA is not a paid leave. The RI Pre-K grant includes the lead teacher’s school year salary and provides funds for substitute coverage. A portion of the teacher’s salary may be repurposed to cover the substitute salary as needed for extended leaves.

13. Do they fund the substitute teacher that will fill that role during the teachers leave?

Based on the estimated percentages within the budget the grant will fund about 350 hours for substitute teachers within the RI Pre-K classroom.

14. Will you fund summer camp?

No, the RI Pre-K grant does not fund summer camp. The grant funds 180 days of school for the children selected by the lottery.
15. In terms of the universal pre k the listed staff members are: administrator, education coordinator, teacher, teacher assistant and substitutes- what if you have a co-director can we add that employee to our proposal?

Yes, if the co-director will be serving a role within the RI Pre-K classroom then they should be added to the staffing list with a description of their role and responsibilities.

16. How much does UPK pay per child? Is this separate from the grant award?

The RI Pre-K grant is awarded as a total sum for classrooms. There is not an additional amount awarded per child.

17. The space we are looking to utilize is going to need renovations and new equipment- does the grant covers that cost as well?

The grant does not cover the cost of renovations to a facility in preparation of receiving a RI Pre-K. Some of the equipment that is necessary for the classroom can be funded using the grant award.

18. Does the staff salary spread during the summer or does the staff continue to get paid the same rate during summer break?

If RI Pre-K teachers are not working in the summer and the program has the ability to offer the teacher other summer hours those hours would be paid through your organization and not the Pre-K grant. RI Pre-K funds may only be used to fund the school year calendar, and an appropriate amount of time before and after the school year for preparation and wrap up. This totals approximately 43 weeks of the year.

19. Does the grant pay the additional hourly difference for before and after school staff?

No, before and after school services are not paid with the RI Pre-K grant. Families who participate in wrap around services can access those services using CCAP or private tuition. If teaching staff are asked to work the before and after school program you must pay them above and beyond the grant from your own organization.

20. Can the Ed coordinator and lead teacher be the same staff for one classroom?

No, the Education Coordinator and the lead teacher may not be the same staff member in an RI Pre-K. The Education Coordinator is a necessary role for providing support and supervision to the lead teacher and will have Pre-K responsibilities of their own.

21. Are supplies for the classroom paid for by the state?

Yes, classroom supplies may be included in the grant and part of the proposed budget.
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22. Do you have to have the entire kit for curriculum, or can you have 6 books?

Each RI Pre-K classroom must implement a RIDE endorsed curriculum with fidelity. To do so each classroom must have access to the full curriculum and materials.

23. If we use Highscope for the curriculum can we use COR advantage for assessment?

All RI Pre-K classrooms use Teaching Strategies Gold for assessment. A program may use another program for assessment to support TSG but TSG is the primary method for collecting and documenting assessment data in RI Pre-K rooms.

24. If the initial cost of opening the new preschool classroom is larger than following years, will the grant award be prorated?

No, RI Pre-K funding is annual so the grant may not be prorated.

25. When determining 180 days for program to be in operation do District calendar half days still count as a day as it does for the rest of the district?

RIDE discourages half-days in RI Pre-K classrooms, as it disrupts continuity for families and children. The RI Pre-K grant pays for teacher’s professional development outside of the 180 days. However, we do understand that classrooms operating within a school district building must follow district closures.

26. We operate centers in different cities. Do we need to submit two applications?

Yes, RI Pre-K classrooms are city or town specific so programs operating in different cities will need to apply for each RI Pre-K site in separate proposals.

27. Can the qualified Educational Coordinator be the Educational Coordinator for two different sites? (Only for two State Pre-K classrooms).

Yes, an Educational Coordinator can oversee two RI Pre-K classrooms in two different sites with a thoughtful plan for providing each classroom the necessary support and leadership.

28. What benefits are we required to offer the teachers and TAs? How do programs handle fringe?

Benefits are expected to reflect the experience and education of RI Pre-K educational staff. They may be program specific based on individual organizations but should include health, dental and retirement benefits.

29. When would OSHA inspection take place?

OSHA inspections are no longer required for CECE approval or RI Pre-K classrooms.
30. We do not use city water for drinking, is bottled water ok?

Yes, bottled water for drinking is acceptable. Classrooms will need access to water for handwashing and will need to provide a water potability certificate.

31. Can a State Pre-K classroom be located in second floor?

RI Pre-K classrooms must adhere to all DHS Childcare Licensing Regulations and/or BEP regulations within a public school building. According the Licensing Regulations an RI Pre-K classroom can be housed on the second floor, as long as all facility requirements are met. Programs should refer to the CECE Facilities Visit Checklist for reference. CECE Program Approval

32. Can Pre-K classrooms be used for before and after school for school age children?

RI Pre-K classrooms must be available to RI Pre-K children for a minimum of 6 hours a day of instructional time, a reasonable amount of time for families during arrival and departure and time for the teaching team to work within the room. Given those time constraints if a Pre-K classroom is available during the needed times then yes, it may be used for before and after school services.

33. Will Conscious Discipline training continue for programs awarded under this RFP?

Yes, RI Pre-K classrooms will continue to utilize Conscious Discipline within their programs and teachers will receive relevant professional development and technical assistance.

34. Which chart is being required: Appendix B or a modified chart within the technical proposal?

Applicants should complete the Appendix B template as an addendum to the proposal. Editable tables and templates can be found on the RIDE website. RFP Templates

35. Submitting a copy of the School Calendar is listed as a deliverable. Should that be an attachment to this RFP? Do you want copies of Assessment, K Transition, and Comprehensive Services Plans as part of the RFP? If so, should they be attachments?

Applicants should refer to the required attachment checklist within the RFP. Deliverables are RI Pre-K requirements for programs after they have been awarded. The assessment information requested in the RFP can be added as an attachment and does not count towards the technical proposal cap.

36. Do you want the Weekly Planning Schedule as an attachment or within the technical proposal?

The technical proposal should contain all the requested information within the five sections identified in the RFP. All other documents and attachments do not count towards the 10 pages of the Technical Proposal.